

To: NC Health Choice Providers

From: Division of Medical Assistance
Division of Public Health
State Employee's Health Plan

Re: Important Procedure Change for Identifying and Reimbursing Wrap-Around Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Children in the NC Health Choice Program (NCHC) meeting the legislative definition for special needs services must now be identified by a Physician Certification Form signed by a physician if they need services above the core service package, which is equivalent to the State Employee's Health Plan (SEHP). The accompanying form is the vehicle to certify that a child meets the definition for special needs services. The certification is effective for one year from the date it is signed. Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC (BCBS-NC) will send you this form to complete when they have a pending pre-authorization request or claim that falls outside the core service package.

We wanted you, as the provider, to be aware of these changes since you may be asked to complete the form. In addition, there may be a NCHC member in your practice, who meets these criteria and requires services above the core package. In these instances, you may want to be proactive by completing and submitting the form to BCBS-NC before being asked.

Services above the core package cannot be reimbursed until a child is identified through this form. This policy became effective beginning September 2003. Certifying that a child meets the special needs definition does not supplant the need to request prior approval for services when required.

Please call **1-800-367-2229 or 1-800-737-3028** if you have questions or would like additional clarification. Thank you for your continuing services for children with special needs.